

SELFRIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 30
(Bomb ~~Storage~~ Storage Building)
(Weather Radar Support)
Wright Boulevard, opposite Birch St.
Mt. Clemens vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-P

HAER
MICH
50-MTCLE.V
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Great Lakes Systems Office
Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SELFRIDGE FIELD
BUILDING #30,
(BOMBSITE STORAGE BUILDING)
(Weather Radar Support)

HAER No. MI-116-P

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Location:

South of Wilbur Wright Boulevard west of Birch Street
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,
Macomb County, Michigan
U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350820.471B710

Significance:

This building was erected to support Selfridge's war time training role, securing bombsights for the adjacent hangar row, and is a minimally altered representative of a building type rarely encountered in Michigan.

Description:

This building is a single-story shed-roofed structure, constructed of reinforced concrete and presenting an irregular floor plan. It is composed of an 11 foot x 13 foot vault and a 5 foot 10 inch by 6 foot 8 inch vault on the north elevation that extends the facade and creates an L-plan structure. The built up roof is pitch and gravel covered and rests atop a wood fascia. This building is constructed of 10 inch thick reinforced concrete walls that slope from 10 feet 3 inches on the primary (east) elevation to 8 feet 7 inches on the rear elevation. Except for narrow barred vents below the fascia on the east and west elevations and louvered steel vents at the foundation line on its west elevation, fenestration consists solely of double steel paneled pedestrian entry doors occurring below projecting concrete lintels on the facade. Above the plain wooden fascia, the sloping roof consists of built up roofing. The reinforced concrete floor rests on six inches of gravel fill, while the foundation footings extend three feet below surface grade.

The original interior plan consisted of two bays, the bomb sight vault and the control room, each accessed by exterior pedestrian doors. No internal passage existed. The plan remains the same today, and each bay today is utilized as a small open storage area. The original wood doors have been replaced by steel, and the ceiling of the southern bay has been framed in and lowered with plywood sheeting.

History:

This shed roofed structure was constructed in 1943 from plans for "Bombsight Storage Building Type BSS-1," provided by the War Department, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Construction

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Building #30
(Bomb Sight Storage Building)
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Division, Washington, D.C. Originally located in a secure yard defined by a woven wire and barbed wire fence perimeter, this building is situated in proximity to Hangar #5 on the original Selfridge base flight line. In recent years this building supported weather operations at the base.

Sources:

Original construction plans on file at the Selfridge Base Museum and at Selfridge Base Civil Engineering

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (retired), Selfridge Base Museum Curator, October 13, 1995.

Historian:

William E. Rutter
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.
May, 1996